

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph number [0001] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0001] The present invention relates to apparatus for grasping, holding, and positioning small articles, such as small pieces of ~~papers~~ paper. More specifically, the present invention relates to apparatus with adhesive elements formed from tacky material that are configured to temporarily grasp small articles without damaging the small articles or leaving a residue thereon. In addition, the present invention relates to methods for manufacturing and using such apparatus.

Please replace paragraph number [0005] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0005] Moreover, when the article to be held or positioned is very thin, such as a small piece of paper or ~~of another~~ other material, it may be difficult to position one of the tips of tweezers beneath the article or to otherwise grasp the article. As a result, one may attempt to grasp the article by positioning the tips at opposite edges of the article. Consequently, the article may be bent as force is applied to the tips so as to grasp the article.

Please replace paragraph number [0012] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0012] In use, a desired amount of the tacky material of the grasping element may be provided at the end of the housing of a hand-held pick-and-place apparatus that incorporates teachings of the present invention, then molded (*e.g.*, by hand) into a desired shape (*e.g.*, a point for grasping very small articles, a flat end surface for grasping somewhat larger articles, an enlarged end for grasping ~~relative~~ relatively large articles, etc.). The grasping element is then brought into contact with an article to be grasped. In addition, the grasping element may be forced against the article to ensure that the article will be grasped. Once the article has been adhered to the grasping element, the article may be held in place while adhesive or another substance is applied thereto, while it is being altered (*e.g.*, cut, folded, etc.), or while any other task is being performed thereon or therewith. Alternatively, following adhesion of the article to the grasping element, the article may be transferred to another, possibly more secure grasping

device (e.g., styli, tweezers, scrapers, cutting blades, ball-points, pokers, applicators for adhesives or other materials, brushes, writing or marking instruments, etc.), then another task (e.g., application of adhesive or another substance, alteration of the article, etc.) may be performed on or with the article. The article may then be positioned at a desired location on a page of a scrapbook or on another substrate, such as a sheet of paper, a poster board, or the like. In order to effect removal of the article from the grasping element, a placement tip, tweezers, or another apparatus may be placed nonadhesively against the article as the hand-held pick-and-place apparatus is removed therefrom.

Please replace paragraph number [0027] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0027] With reference to FIGs. 1 and 2, an exemplary embodiment of hand-held pick-and-place apparatus 10 according to the present invention is depicted. For simplicity, hand-held pick-and-place apparatus 10 is also referred to herein as a “pick-and-place apparatus 10.” Pick-and-place apparatus 10 includes a hand-held body 20 and an adhesive tip 30, which is also referred to herein as a “tip 30” for simplicity, configured to be received and retained by one end 22 of body 20. A grasping element 50 (FIG. 2), which is formed from a tacky material, is at least partially retained by tip 30. Pick-and-place apparatus 10 may also include a cap 90, which may be disposable over tip 30 and configured to engage tip 30. In addition, pick-and-place apparatus 10 may include an accessory tool 60, which is configured to be retained by and protrude from another end 24 of body 20.

Please replace paragraph number [0031] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0031] At end 24 of body 20, storage cavity 25 may form an ~~accessory~~ accessory-attachment element 29, which is configured to receive and retain a complementarily configured portion of accessory tool 60.

Please replace paragraph number [0032] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0032] As shown in FIG. 2, an interior fixed element 27, in this case an interior wall which extends across the central portion of storage cavity 25, may separate storage cavity 25 into two sections 25a and 25b. Section 25a communicates with tip-engagement receptacle 26 and is configured to receive a plunger 55, which includes a tip 56 configured to be positioned coaxially within storage ~~cavity~~ cavity 25 and, thus, is spaced apart from interior surfaces of section 25a of storage cavity 25. Section 25b communicates with ~~accessory~~ accessory-attachment element 29.

Please replace paragraph number [0035] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0035] Tip 30 also includes a retention channel 42 for grasping element 50, as well as a delivery channel 40, both of which extend substantially along a central longitudinal axis 31 of tip 30. Retention channel 42, which may, as depicted, have substantially uniform cross-section taken along central longitudinal axis 31, opens to an exterior of tip 30 and extends substantially through ~~cylindrical~~ elongate section 32a of exposed end 32 of tip 30. When body-engagement end 34 of tip 30 is positioned within tip-engagement receptacle 26 of body 20, plunger 55 is positioned substantially in-line with retention channel 42. Delivery channel 40, which communicates and is in alignment with retention channel 42, extends through exposed end 32 of tip 30, opening to an exterior thereof. Thus, delivery channel 40 delivers tacky material of grasping element 50 to an exterior of tip 30. The junction between retention channel 42 and delivery channel 40 may comprise a tapered region 41 to facilitate the movement of grasping element 50 from retention ~~channel~~ channel 42 to delivery channel 40.

Please replace paragraph number [0039] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0039] When it is desired that an additional grasping element 50 at an exterior end 54 thereof be extruded from tip 30, such as when an exposed portion of grasping element 50 becomes covered with lint, dust, or the like, or otherwise loses some of its tackiness (*e.g.*, due to aging, exposure, etc.), or when an ~~external~~ exterior end 54 of grasping element 50 breaks from the remainder thereof, tip 30 may be further rotated in the engaging direction (*e.g.*, clockwise) to

the position shown in FIG. 3A. When such rotation occurs, plunger 55 (FIG. 2) holds interior end 52 of grasping element 50 in place, causing a portion of the length of grasping element 50 to be forced longitudinally through retention channel 42 and delivery channel 40 as they advance longitudinally toward plunger 55. As a result, additional tacky material of grasping element 50, at exterior end 54, is forced out of exposed end 32 of tip 30.

Please replace paragraph number [0041] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0041] Of course, other configurations of pick-and-place apparatus ~~10~~ 10', as well as of body ~~20~~ 20' and tip ~~30~~ 30' thereof, that facilitate the storage and controlled or metered delivery of tacky material of grasping element 50 to the exterior of tip ~~30~~ 30' by other mechanisms are also within the scope of the present invention. For example, and with reference to FIG. 2A, a pick-and-place apparatus ~~10~~ 10' that incorporates teachings of the present invention may include a tip ~~30~~ 30' that, when secured to body ~~20~~ 20', remains in a substantially stationary position, while a delivery element, such as an interior element ~~27~~ 27' or other longitudinally moveable element of body ~~20~~ 20', is configured to move longitudinally along storage cavity ~~25~~ 25' and is associated with an actuator ~~45~~ 45' (e.g., a rotational actuator, a linearly-traveling actuator, etc.) to cause such movement, thereby effecting the receipt of at least a portion of grasping element 50 to an exterior of tip ~~30~~ 30'.

Please replace paragraph number [0042] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0042] Turning now to FIGs. 4A-4C, if desired, the newly exposed exterior end 54 of grasping element 50 may be shaped. By way of example only, the newly exposed exterior end 54 of grasping element 50 may be shaped to a point, as shown in FIG. 4A, ~~having~~ having a diameter at an end thereof which is useful for picking up pieces of material (e.g., paper, cloth, plastic film, foil, etc.) of particular size. Such shaping may be effected manually or otherwise, such as by placing pick-and-place apparatus 10 (FIGs. 1 and 2) at an angle to a surface with exterior end 54 of grasping element 50 (FIGs. 1 and 2) in contact with the surface and rotating pick-and-place apparatus 10 until exterior end 54 assumes a substantially conical or frustoconical shape. As

another example, depicted in FIG. 4B, exterior end 54 may be shaped with a substantially flat surface, which may be oriented perpendicular to central longitudinal axis 31 of tip 30, as shown, or at an angle thereto. Such shaping may be effected by placing exterior end 54 on a substantially planar surface at a desired angle, then by applying pressure to pick-and-place apparatus 10. FIG. 4C, which shows an enlarged exterior end 54 on grasping element 50, provides yet another example of the manner in which exterior end 54 may be shaped. Of course, it may also be desirable or necessary to reshape exterior end 54 of grasping element 50 following use or storage of pick-and-place apparatus 10.

Please replace paragraph number [0047] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0047] As an alternative to replacing tacky material of grasping element 50 in tip 30, a new tip 30, which has been pre-loaded with a replacement grasping element 50, may be secured to ~~body~~ body 20, such as in the manner that has been described herein.

Please replace paragraph number [0051] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0051] All or part of outer ~~surface~~ wall 98 may be knurled, include ridges, or be otherwise roughened to facilitate gripping thereof and removal thereof from body 20. Such roughening of outer ~~surface~~ wall 98 may also facilitate rotation of cap 90 and, thus, of tip 30, to cause grasping element 50 to be extruded therefrom.

Please replace paragraph number [0053] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0053] With returned reference to FIG. 2, body 20 (or, optionally, cap 90) may also include a clip 100, of a type known in the art, secured to an outer surface 21 of body 20. Clip 100 includes a spacing element 102 which extends away from outer surface 21 and which secures clip 100 to body 20. Clip 100 also includes an elongate retention element 104, which extends from spacing element 102 toward end 24 of body 20 and which is oriented substantially parallel to longitudinal axis ~~31~~ 31' of body 20. Additionally, clip 100 may include a protruding element 106 that extends from elongate retention element 104 in substantially the same direction

as spacing element 102 extends and which is configured to be disposed between elongate retention element 104 and outer surface 21 of body 20. Protruding element 106 may space elongate retention element 104 a suitable distance apart from outer surface 21 that a thin member (e.g., a pocket, sleeve, cover of a notebook, sheet of paper, etc.) may be disposed therebetween, as well as facilitate the retention of such a thin member between elongate retention element 104 and outer surface 21 of body 20.

Please replace paragraph number [0055] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0055] In this regard, section 25b of storage cavity 25 of body 20 may be configured to receive and engage at least a portion of accessory tool 60. For example, ~~accessory~~ accessory-attachment element 29 of section 25b and a portion of accessory tool 60 may mutually engage each other by way of an interference fit (i.e., friction) or by complementarily configured means for securing (e.g., complementary threading, complementary indents and protrusions, etc.) at an inner surface of accessory-attachment element 29 of section 25b and the engaged portion of accessory tool 60.

Please replace paragraph number [0059] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0059] Tools 64 and 74 may be formed integrally with center section 62, as shown in FIG. 7. Alternatively, as depicted in FIG. 7A, an accessory tool ~~60~~ 60 may include tools ~~64~~ 64 and ~~74~~ 74 which are configured to be removably secured to ends ~~63~~ 63 and ~~73~~ 73 of a center section 62 thereof. By way of example only, ends ~~63~~ 63 and ~~73~~ 73 and complementary portions of tools ~~64~~ 64 and ~~74~~ 74 may be threaded or include interconnecting elements that may be secured to one another and held in place magnetically, adhesively, by an interference fit, or with "snap-on" type features, such as by introduction of a protruding feature (e.g., a ridge or spring-loaded bearing) into a corresponding recess, or by any other suitable means known in the art.

Please replace paragraph number [0060] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0060] Tool 64, 74 includes a body-engagement element 68, 78 protruding from and located adjacent to each end 63, 73 of center section 62. Body-engagement element 68, 78 is configured to be inserted into and secured within accessory-attachment element 29 of section 25b of storage cavity 25 of body 20. As shown, at least one dimension OD₆₈, OD₇₈ (*e.g.*, an outer diameter) of a cross-section of body-engagement element 68, 78 taken transverse to a longitudinal axis 61 of accessory tool 60 is about the same as at least one corresponding dimension ID₂₉ (*e.g.*, an inner diameter) (FIG. 2) of a cross-section of accessory-attachment element 29 taken transverse to a longitudinal axis ~~24~~ 31 (FIG. ~~1~~ 2) of body 20. Of course, if body-engagement element 68, 78 includes additional means for engaging the means for engaging of accessory-attachment element 29 (*e.g.*, threading, corresponding tabs and recesses, etc.), dimension OD₆₈, OD₇₈ may be somewhat smaller than the corresponding dimension ID₂₉ so as to accommodate such means for engaging.

Please replace paragraph number [0062] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0062] An elongate element 70, 80 extends from an end of a corresponding body-engagement element 68, 78, opposite from center section 62, to a corresponding tool end 72, 82. To facilitate its storage within section 25b of storage cavity 25 of body 20, each elongate element 70, 80 may have at least one cross-sectional dimension OD₇₀, OD₈₀ (*e.g.*, outer diameter) taken transverse to longitudinal axis 61 which is somewhat less than the corresponding cross-sectional dimension OD₆₈, OD₇₈ of the adjacent body-engagement ~~end element~~ 68, 78. Accordingly, each tool 64, 74 may include a taper 69, 79 between body-engagement element 68, 78 and elongate element 70, 80 thereof.

Please replace paragraph number [0064] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0064] Of course, as shown in FIG. 8, accessory tools ~~60~~ 60' that include only a single tool ~~64~~ 64' and, thus, include a handling end ~~62~~ 62' rather than a center section, are also within the scope of the present invention. Further, accessory tools that are securable in a different

manner to a body 20 (FIGs. 1 and 2) of a pick-and-place apparatus 10 that incorporates teachings of the present invention are also within the scope of the present invention.

Please replace paragraph number [0065] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0065] With returned reference to ~~FIG. 7~~ FIGs. 2 and 7, accessory tool 60 may, by way of example only, be secured to body 20 of pick-and-place apparatus 10 by substantially aligning longitudinal axis 61 of accessory tool 60 and longitudinal axis ~~21~~ 31 of body 20, and inserting tool end 72, 82 through accessory-attachment element 29 and into section 25b of storage cavity 25 of body 20. Body-engagement element 68, 78 and accessory-attachment element 29 may then be caused to engage one another, as appropriate for the type of means for engagement thereof.

Please replace paragraph number [0068] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0068] FIGs. 9A and 9B depict the use of pointed end 72. In FIG. 9A, a piece 110 of a sheet of material (*e.g.*, paper, plastic film, cloth, foil, etc.), is stuck to an ~~exposed~~ exterior end 54 of grasping element 50 that protrudes from tip 30 of pick-and-place apparatus 10. Body 20 of pick-and-place apparatus 10 may be held with a hand H₁ of an individual. Once piece 110 has been positioned at a desired location on a substrate 120 (*e.g.*, a sheet of a scrapbook, another sheet of paper or card stock, a poster board, etc.), or if removal of piece 110 from ~~exposed~~ exterior end 54 of grasping element 50 is otherwise desired, the individual, with center section 62 of accessory tool 60 grasped by with her other hand H₂, may bring accessory tool 60 in proximity to piece 110 and position pointed end 72 of placement tip 64 in contact with piece 110, thereby holding piece ~~in~~ 110 in place upon substrate 120 or another surface.

Please replace paragraph number [0069] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0069] Next, as shown in FIG. 9B, the individual may pull the remainder (*i.e.*, grasping element 50, tip 30, and body 20) of pick-and-place apparatus 10 from piece 110 with her

hand H₁, thereby separating ~~exposed~~ exterior end 54 of grasping element 50 from piece 110 and allowing piece 110 to remain in place.

Please replace paragraph number [0070] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0070] As depicted in FIG. 10, if an adhesive, such as glue, has already been applied to a bottom surface 112 of piece 110, adhesion of the adhesive-coated bottom surface 112 of piece 110 to a substrate 120 may be effected by changing the position of accessory tool 60 within hand H₂ of the individual, then bringing rounded stylus 74 into proximity to piece 110, with rounded end 82 thereof contacting an upper surface 114 of piece 110. Thereafter, the individual may move rounded end 82 laterally over portions or substantially all of upper surface 114. In so doing, rounded end 82 applies pressure to upper surface 114, causing adhesive on bottom surface 112 to contact substrate 120 and to spread between bottom surface 112 and substrate 120, thereby facilitating adhesion of piece 110 to substrate 120.